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which our camps are located, or through which our soldiers will be passing in transit to other points.

Will you give earnest consideration to this matter in your particular state? I am confident that much can be done to arouse the cities and towns to an appreciation of their responsibility for clean conditions; and I would suggest that, through such channels as may present themselves to you, you impress upon these communities their patriotic opportunity in this matter.

I would further suggest that as an integral part of the war machinery your council make itself responsible for seeing that the laws of your state and of Congress in respect to these matters are strictly enforced. This relates not only to the camps established under Federal authority, both the present officers' training camps and the divisional training camps soon to be opened, but to the more or less temporary mobilization points of the National Guard units. It relates, too, as I have indicated, to the large centers through which soldiers will constantly be passing in transit to other points.

As I say, the War Department intends to do its full part in those matters, but we expect the coöperation and support of the local communities. If the desired end cannot be otherwise achieved, I propose to move the camps from those neighborhoods in which clean conditions cannot be secured.

THE RELATION OF THE GRADUATE NURSE TO THE PROBLEM OF SOCIAL HYGIENE¹

By MRS. WILLIAM FALCONER

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The preceding paper tells what fine work can be done with a good dispensary in the way of treating and curing and caring for those who are suffering with venereal disease. I would like to have you go a step further back and see what we can do to eliminate the necessity for venereal disease, to eliminate prostitution, if we can, to fight prostitution.

A woman physician who was in a medical school about ten years ago said to me, that while she was getting her medical training, and later when she was connected with one of the hospitals, she never heard the subject discussed and no information was given her, no instruction. I was wondering if the same thing were not true with regard to that great group of overworked women whom I see before me here, today. And I feel I ought to apologize to you for coming to you with a message urging you to take upon yourselves one more thing than the things you are already trying to do. I do not know of any group of people who are more overworked than nurses. Perhaps you are too highly trained, I don't know; so trained to obey yourselves that I sometimes

¹ Read at the twentieth annual convention of the American Nurses' Association, April 30, 1917.

wonder whether it takes most of the initiative out of you; you are so tired, physically. But these things are so important and so vital that we turn to you for information and for help, because it is a nurse's problem and because it is a woman's problem.

The question, for instance, which will follow the mobilization of our troops is, Will commercialized vice be stimulated, and what are we going to do about it? Are we going to wait and have more maternity homes and try to take better care of illegitimate children and have more dispensaries, where we would treat carefully those who are suffering with venereal disease? Or, shall we try to meet the problem before that thing becomes necessary? Shall we try to get hold of the situation and see what we can do to meet it?

The government is wisely doing a great deal in calling to its service such men as Dr. Snow and others to look after this question of venereal disease. Now we have to be just as keen and just as ready to go forward and look after the question of commercialized vice, for the young girls and young women who may be induced to go into the communities where the troops may be mobilized. I believe that is one of the burning questions for women to consider. Do not let us wait until later. We ought to be able to do something with it now. I think women ought to be blamed more than men for the double standard, we have been so much more willing to forgive men than we have women. I would have you not expect less of the women nor less of the men, but I would have you expect more of the younger men.

Take the question of literature, which the last speaker presented. A few years ago it was difficult to get the right kind of literature. Is it not the nurse's business to discuss those things with the patient? I believe it is, if it is done wisely and tactfully and intelligently. Put yourself in touch with organizations where you can get good literature, that you may be helpful to the pupil who needs help.

What are we going to do about conserving our young girls? We talk about conserving our resources in so many ways, conserving our infants. You are urged, undoubtedly, to take greater interest in the question of infant mortality and better food. I plead with you today to conserve our young womanhood in the time of this national crisis. We are not going to do it unless we can have an aroused public conscience. Fortunately, we have advanced a long way. We hear less and less about the question of its being a social necessity.

I believe very much in the educational value of the moving pictures. I believe in the play "Damaged Goods," both as a play and also as it is given in moving pictures. It was said, "Oh, what a pity to give that

to mixed audiences." I was asked by a small group of men and women in Philadelphia recently to see a picture that is going to be put out on the market on the question of social hygiene and sex instruction. I believe in it, because it puts the responsibility where it belongs, on the parents. Some people present said, "What a pity they cannot be given to the parents alone." But I say it is going to be given to the future parents, and after all isn't that where we must begin our work, with our young men and young women? If we thought they would all come in and sit down and read the pamphlets and literature, perhaps we would have less need for this popular education.

I believe many of us are willing to stand for sex instruction, but we are not sure of the next step, how to give it or where to give it; but of this we are sure: it ought to be given in small groups. Now if that is a question for nurses and doctors, then I would lay it at your door.

Why have so many girls been driven into prostitution? In the first place, many of them are mentally deficient and need that care which we are not giving them here in Pennsylvania; because we have no place to which we can commit a feeble-minded young woman to be cared for past the child-bearing period. The institutions that we have are crowded. Excellent work is done at Spring City, but there is no place in Pennsylvania where we can place these girls out under the protection and care of the state, and we find them drifting around largely into the cities and adding to the large army of prostitutes. I think the whole situation, though, is wonderfully hopeful, because so much more is being done now, and because of the changed attitude from what we had a few years ago. We are getting away from what we chose to call superiority of silence. Men and women can discuss this openly and frankly and say to each other, "What can we do about it? What can we do to make our men and women and our parents realize their responsibilities?"

It has been my privilege twice to talk to women who had been keepers of immoral houses and who, I believe, had honestly repented. They both had what I believed to be a very earnest desire to help girls; I felt that they, a great deal better than any one else, would know how to talk to girls, and I was interested in getting their point of view. I said to them, "Why do girls do it?" One said she didn't realize, she hadn't thought what she was doing. She had lost her mother when a little girl and had been drifting about from one relative to another. And she said, "If we could only get hold of the mothers and make them responsible and make them think." I said, "Can't we get hold of the future mothers?" We want to have a

better standard of parenthood, to try and raise the standard of parenthood of both our boys and girls, so that they may realize their responsibilities. I believe we have aroused a public conscience. We hear less and less about the necessity for a segregated district. We want to try to do away with the necessity for so many maternity homes.

I believe that you should take an interest in a conference on parenthood and legitimacy. It is not a question of how to collect statistics about illegitimacy and how best to take care of it, and whether the mother should be made to take care of her child in childhood or indefinitely, but what we are going to try to do to stop illegitimacy. I think that is a question which we ought to meet frankly if we are going to try to conserve our young womanhood. We do not want to shut our eyes blindly and feel, "Well, I haven't anything to do with that. I don't know anything about it. I don't know where to get any literature about the subject." I believe it is woman's problem to work for girls and women; and you as nurses ought to be in a position to help so many, to help the girl who comes to you and then to help her to go back and reach other girls. They can do it, often, so much better than any one else, because they know the temptations which are coming to girls, and they ought to have a message for the girls in that community. When I think of the opportunities in the industrial centers in this city, I say, "I will take care of the particular girls who may have come to me, but who is going to take care of the brothers and sisters of that family to save them from having to be sent away from home?" And so I would have you do the same thing in each case of illegitimacy, prostitution and venereal disease that may come to you. We are asking you not to be satisfied with clinics, much as we need them, not to be satisfied with having better hospital facilities, much as we need those for the care of venereal disease; but ask yourselves, "How are we going to stop it? What are we going to do to arouse the public conscience?"

One of the things we must do is to try to make recreation clean and wholesome, so that the heedless, thoughtless girls, after long hours of work, will not be tempted and fall into the hands of vicious people. Remember that the very joy of living is hers. When a girl wants something to do, when she wants companionship, let us step in and help her to find companionship in the right way and provide the right kind of places for her. Put yourself back in that girl's place and see how necessary it is for her to have that companionship.

It is the young girl in the rural community who needs our help so much. In the large cities we have so many organized agencies to look

after the dependent and delinquent children, to look after recreation, but what about the boy and the girl in the rural community, the boy and girl who are drifting away from home too quickly because they want a good time? There is no place provided for them in the cities. Now if you go back to the rural communities, where you go to work or on your vacation, I wish you might take an interest in the young girls. I believe they need a great deal done for them if we are going to keep them out of the cities and keep them from drifting into prostitution and feeding this great commercialized business, because it is a business largely in the hands of men. They are the ones who are making money out of it. The girls are seeking an opportunity for self-expression which they ought to have given them in their own small community. Persuade people to open the schoolhouses for recreation and spend their money in that way. Is that the nurse's job? I believe it is the nurse's job. I believe it is every woman's job, if we are going to conserve our young womanhood.

RURAL NURSING: ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN THE SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS¹

By WARREN P. WILSON, PH.D.

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I want to pay high tribute to the great place the Red Cross occupies at the present time in our national history, because of its very nature. It impresses me as the only society that can bring the people in the little communities in the way of rendering service to the nation, into an organization that will give them a helpful hand in this great work of the world. I am concerned with the people in little communities, and it is my business to tell them to organize in every place, if permitted by this great society, some auxiliary, some small unit, that will enable them to deliver their contribution to our soldiers when they are in the trenches across the seas. I read the other day a pamphlet of this society telling in precise detail what garments or appliances any woman could make to add as her contribution to the help of the nations in this great struggle of the whole world.

Now as to the mountain people of the south, who live on the great backbone of this continent, the great eastern mountain range, they are in the section of the country into which seven of our states, the two Virginias, the two Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky, reach

¹ Abridged from an address delivered at the twentieth annual convention of the American Nurses' Association, April 30, 1917.